FBIS DAILY REPORT

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LATIN AMERICAN INFORMATION SYSTEM BEGINS OPERATIONS

PA021902 Caracas VENPRES in Spanish 1616 GMT 2 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Caracas, 1 Mar (VENPRES)--The "National Information Action System [Accion de Sistemas Informativos Nacionales--ASIN]," which groups 10 nations from Latin America, the Caribbean and Surinam, will be installed and begin full operations tomorrow, Friday.

ASIN is the first step taken to coordinate the policy of Venezuela and the other member nations of ASIN in the field of communications. It will serve as the root of a Latin American news agency that will permit the nations of the area a greater and easier supply of true, firsthand information.

Daily mutual exchange of information among Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Panama, Costa Rica, Santo Domingo, Jamaica and Surinam will be conducted through existing facilities and unused time on INTERPRESS circuits already made available to ASIN.

The Ministry of Information and Tourism has invited all representatives of the official information media of the nine countries that together with Venezuela make up ASIN to a meeting for an exchange of experience. Details of the information problems in each of these countries and generally in our Latin America are will be discussed.

On Saturday the delegates, together with representatives of the Venezuela provincial press, will attend a breakfast with the chief of state, Mr Carlos Andres Perez.

Explanation of System

PA070402 Paris AFP in Spanish 0202 GMT 7 Mar 79 PA

[Excerpts] The system is fed informative and cultural material produced by state information services to be distributed among all the members by means of a network that INTERPRESS service has placed at their disposal.

The Representatives of the member states described the agreement as "an initial step toward our regional and Third World goal of helping to solve the present lack of equilibrium of information which exists in the world." They added that their initiative "requires the support of all professional communications organizations."

It was reported that the system remains open to new member countries of the region and the Third World, as well as to "new objectives and forms of communication in the specific field of information and communication."

GOVERNMENT REPLIES TO BRAZILIAN REJECTION OF PARANA PROPOSAL

PY061917 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1750 GMT 6 Mar 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 6 Mar (TELAM)--"The Argentine Government has viewed with surprise the attitudes and procedures employed by the Brazilian Foreign Ministry, and it deeply deplores them." These remarks are the first part of a memorandum delivered by Argentine Ambassador to Brazil Oscar Camilion in Brasilia today regarding "the events that have taken place in the last few weeks during the negotiations regarding the Corpus and Itaipu dams which ended with the delivery and immediate release of the Brazilian Government's "memoir" on 19 February 1979. The Argentine memorandum, 9 pages and a 10-page annex with technical details, was also delivered to Paraguayan Charges d'Affairs, Waldimar Palacios y Palacios in the Foreign Ministry this morning.

In reference to the Brazilian attitude, it states that "it believes the public disclosure of documents reserved for three governments in the midst of negotiations is an attitude that is incompatible with the practice of diplomacy." The Argentine memorandum adds that "it does not share the belief that this was done for the purpose of informing the public."

Regarding the "unwonted accusation that Argentina simultaneously presented in Asuncion and Brasilia two different proposals intended for the same purpose, that is, to put an end to the long Corpus-Itaipu disagreement," the document indicates that the Argentine Government did not react to this charge "first, because of its obvious lack of substance, particularly since it considered that what was being prepared involved a procedural nature, foreign to the basis of the negotiations, like other incidents which occured not long ago."

The document explains that when the last suggestions were submitted, only the basic right of submitting proposals in open negotiations in progress was exercised.

The charges of a "unilateral attitude" is also answered when the document states that "the Argentine Government denies that its alleged 'unilateral attitude' would change the so-called equilibrium existing in the text of the document signed in Rio de Janeiro. It denies this because, first, its suggestions did not have an imposing nature and, second, because the Brazilian Government still seems to believe that the increase of Itaipu's power is immaterial to the negotiations."

After describing as unfounded the assertion that the operation of a powerplant has nothing to do with its potential, the memorandum refers to the final proposal made by Brazilian Foreign Minister Ambassador Antonio Azeredo da Silveira fixing the operational height of Corpus at 105 meters with 18 turbines installed at Itaipu as a formula for agreement. It says: "It is a fact that this formula was changed only 6 days after it was accepted by Argentina."

"The peculiar analysis made by Brazil of the Argentine proposals regarding the filling of the Itaipu dam also leads to similar reflections. Argentina does not wish to establish any tripartite plan for the execution of that operation. It only wishes to study its consequences trilaterally, in the same way as has been done throughout these negotiations."

It has been made clear that the minimum waterflow which Argentina considers acceptable for the Parana River -- 6,000 cubic meters per second -- is even less than that which appeared in its document of 29 May last year (which reproduced the result of the Jupia test -- 7,000 cubic meters per second), although this did not then cause any objection from the Brazilian Government in the note which, in reply to that document, "led to the sudden cancellation of the foreign ministers' meeting."

The Argentine reply says: "On the other hand, it is clear that there must be some relation between the figure to be agreed on, which will obviously be less than the normal waterflow, the time the filling will take and when it will begin. It is not the same thing to reduce a river's waterflow during the months of high water and the months of low water. It is also not the same thing to do it in 2 weeks or in 2 months."

The reply also takes into consideration the Brazilian proposal to reduce the waterflow of the Parana River during the filling of the Itaipu dam to its historic minimum, which occurred during a disastrous drought. Whereas this did not result in any untimely Argentine reaction, the last Argentine suggestion to bring the positions closer together elicited a Brazilian rejection, based on the opinion that the length of time and the time of the year for the filling are decisions which depend exclusively on Brazilian and Paraguayan sovereignty. The memorandum asserts: "If Argentina were to accept this hypothesis, it would have to reach the conclusion in the exercise of its own sovereign rights that the waterflow of rivers over which it has a shared sovereignty, such as the Parana and the Iguazu, should be maintained without any change whatever during an operation whose nature is unknown to Argentina. According to such a hypothesis, this would be the last possible means of preventing appreciable and uncontrollable harm."

After noting other considerations, it states that "Argentina agrees that, as stated by the Brazilian memorandum, a sense of proportion has been lost with regard to what is important and what is complementary, but that is not its responsibility. For example, Argentina believes that calling a waterhead of 105 meters for Corpus a more-or-less amusing concession detracts from the seriousness of the trilateral negotiation process which has taken so much time and demanded so much effort. It is obvious that this waterhead allows the operational flexibility of Itaipu, that is, its greater capacity for exploitation. It is evident that the presence of Corpus means a decisive reinforcement of the actual power of the Brazilian-Paraguayan plant since it would increase from 6,600 megawatts to 10,220 megawatts. The numerical data unilaterally presented in the memorandum omits such significant considerations and would lead to the conclusion that Brazil renounced basic interests as a mere act of neighborliness. The Argentine Government permits itself to consider this presentation of the problem in marked contradiction to the facts as well as to logic."

It then definitively asserts some general criteria which Argentina has maintained and continues to consider relevant in this negotiation: A) Argentina believes that what has been sought during the past 2 years is the reconciliation of concrete interests in order to obtain the greatest benefits for each state in the exploitation of its resources; B) Apart from its intrinsic value, Argentina believes the facts show that debates concerning matters of principle in the Corpus and Itaipu negotiations have been overcome; C) Argentina does not in any way intend to interfere in matters which are the exclusive jurisdiction of Brazil or any other country; D) Neither does Argentina intend to interfere in anything concerning matters of bilateral interest between Brazil and Paraguay, determined by the construction or operation of the Itaipu powerplant; and E) At the same time, Argentina believes it cannot renounce the defense of its own rights and does not agree with the constant invoking of matters of principle by Brazil to defend freedom of unrestricted action, when such freedom of action could lead to the violation not just of principles which Argentina considers important, but also of its more concrete interests.

After stating that Corpus is now at the exact stage which it is supposed to be, the memorandum indicates that "Argentina does not wish to analyze the hypothesis that unilateral actions, such as those systematically adopted by Brazil during the past months, in fact represent events designed to impede the possible construction of Corpus."

Finally, it stresses Argentina's decision to grant this project a priority nature, "as well as its conviction that, because of basic principles of international law, the possibility of building it while reconciling the interests of all depends on a trilateral agreement." It follows that "Argentina believes that such an agreement will be useful to the three countries because of what it would mean in itself, because of the example of international cooperation it would become and because of the perspectives it would open for a richer, all-encompassing relationship among Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay."

PRC TO BUY 890,000 TONS OF ARGENTINE WHEAT

PY051817 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1656 GMT 5 Mar 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 5 Mar (NA)--The PRC will purchase 890,000 tons of Argentine wheat from the current crop, according to unofficial sources at the Argentine Economy Ministry. The agreement was reached during talks held in Buenos Aires by a mission of the PRC Cereal-Oil-Food Corporation, which handles the country's grain trade. The purchase is part of the accord signed last year by the Argentine economy minister during his trip to Beijing. This accord establishes that the PRC will purchase at least 1 million tons of wheat per year for 3 consecutive years.

It was also reported that the PRC mission plans to purchase a significant quantity of soybeans. The conditions of this purchase will be established when the harvest time for this crop approaches.

As part of its contacts in Buenos Aires, the delegation of the Cereal-Oil-Food Corporation headed by Zoang Zhigang met with Argentine Economy Minister Jose Alfredo Martinez de Hoz this noon. The meeting was characterized as formal and was attended by the members of the PRC delegation accompanied by the president of the National Grains Board, David Lacroze Ayerza, who later gave them a luncheon at board headquarters.

While the meeting with the economy minister was taking place, a spokesman for the ministry indicated that Lacroze Ayerza would not make any statements but that he would release a report on the agreement through the National Grains Board in the afternoon.

BRIEFS

NEW POLITICAL MOVEMENT--Juan Jose Catalan, former education minister under President Jorge Rafael Videla's government, has announced the formation of a political movement sponsored by the Society for Reseach and Citizens Actions [Sociedad de Estudios y Accion Ciudadana--SEA]. [Buenos Aires LA RAZON in Spanish 3 Mar 79 p 5 PY]

HELICOPTER LOST IN ANTARCTIC--Navy headquarters reports that a navy helicopter has been lost in the Antarctic sector. The helicopter carried a crew of two and was transporting a sick seaman to the Usuhuai Naval Base. The search for the helicopter continues. [Buenos Aires Radio Belgrano in Spanish 0130 GMT 7 Mar 79 PY]

GOVERNMENT NEGOTIATES EXTENSION OF USSR COMMERCIAL AGREEMENT

PY061731 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 27 Feb 79 p 11 PY

[Text] Officials from the Ministry of Mining and Metallurgy are negotiating the extension of a commercial agreement with the Soviet Union to include the supply of machinery and equipment for mining activities and projects. It reportedly involves an agreement signed in 1970 which expires on 11 March of this year. Considering the fact that the agreement was not completely fulfilled, it is now intended to extend it from 3 to 5 years as of this year.

It was recalled that through this agreement the Mining Corporation of Bolivia (COMIBOL) is building a volatilization plant for the treatment of low tin ore in La Palca and Potosi. It also includes two other volatilization plants, one in Machacamarca and another in Quechisla.

COMIBOL and the Mining Bank of Bolivia have purchased, through credits, machinery and mining equipment such as grinders, mixing benches, motors, vehicles, tools, etc. which are used in state and private mining enterprises. The Ministry of Mining and Metallurgy recalled that year after year the National Foundry Enterprise and COMIBOL have signed agreements with the Soviet Union for the sale of Bolivian minerals.

The negotiations for the extension of the commercial agreement with the Soviet Union are being carried out by the Ministry of Foreign Relations. The Ministry of Mining and Metallurgy believes that the negotiations will conclude [illegible] with the signing of a new agreement. There has been no report on the amount of the new commercial agreement for the supply of Soviet equipment and machinery for mining exploration in the country.

ARMED FORCES BEGIN MODERNIZING EQUIPMENT

PY061426 La Paz INFOBOL in Spanish 0830 GMT 6 Mar 79 PY

[Text] Defense Minister Hugo Cespedes has indicated that the Bolvian Armed Forces are engaged in a materiel modernization process aimed at offering security and not only domestically, but also in view of the threats coming from abroad. He said that obsolete equipment is being replaced with modern items which will gurantee the country's sovereignty.

COMMUNISTS NOMINATE VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

PY051449 Paris AFP in Spanish 2058 GMT 3 Mar 79 PY

[Excerpts] La Paz, 3 Mar--The Bolivian Communist Party today nominated Emma Obleas, widow of the late President Juan Jose Torres, for vice president of Hernan Siles Suazo's ticket, supported by the Democratic and Popular Unity Front [FUDP].

"No Bolivian can refuse to help the democratization. Therefore, I am ready to run as candidate for vice president together with Hernan Siles Suazo," Emma Obleas said in a statement released here today.

It is now up to the FUDP presidential candidate to reject or accept the widow of the late President Juan Jose Torres for the vice presidency.

ENERGY MINISTER ON POSSIBILITY OF PURCHASING IRANIAN OIL

PY061228 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 4 Mar 79 p 17 PY

[Text] Brasilia--After hearing a report on the international oil market from Vice President of the Brazilian Petroleum Corporation Paulo Belotti, Mines and Energy Minister Shigeaki Ueki stated yesterday that Brazil could be able to reestablish its purchasing contracts with Iran in the next few days, but that it will have to pay a rather high price.

Later, in reference to Sao Paulo bus owners who are threatening to reduce the number of buses in circulation as a protest against the reduction in fuel quotas ordered some days ago by the National Petroleum Council, Minister Ueki said he has confidence in the good sense of the businessmen and in those who are aware of their responsibility in the campaign to control the consumption of oil derivatives.

PETROBRAS TO REQUEST RENEGOTIATION OF OIL CONTRACT WITH IRAN

PY070244 Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 0200 GMT 7 Mar 79 PY

[Text] A representative of the Brazilian Petroleum Corporation [PETROBRAS] will go to Tehran tomorrow to discuss the bases for renegotiating the contract for supplying Iranian oil to Brazil. PETROBRAS has decided to adopt a more flexible position in its policy on purchasing crude oil and will now agree to pay market prices.

PETROLEUM OFFICIAL ON PRICE INCREASES, RESTRICTIVE MEASURES

PY062159 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 6 Mar 79 p 38 PY

[Excerpts] Brazil will import $4.8 billion worth of oil in 1979 provided that OPEC does not decide to increase prices once more at its 26 March meeting in Geneva, President of the National Petroleum Council Gen Oziel Almeida Costa reported yesterday. Recalling that last year Brazil imported $4.3 billion worth of oil, General Almeida said that the government is paying close attention to extra increases outside OPEC which are being implemented by producing Arab nations, a move which "makes our situation even more dramatic."

General Almeida revealed that he favors restricting excessive consumption of oil byproducts through an increase in their prices, adding that this idea, "which is strictly personal," could be effective in preventing abuses. In his opinion, a ton of fuel oil should be sold at prices ranging from 2,400 to 3,000 cruzeiros, not at 1,340 cruzeiros as is done now.

Even if the Iranian situation becomes normal, General Almeida contends that the Brazilian Government should not lift the measures being adopted for increasing intervention in the area of diesel oil and fuel oil distribution. He also believes that "the era of freely flowing petroleum is over because of the successive crises in this sector" and because no other product can replace petroleum as an energy source. He said that Brazil is running a shale oil pilot plant, but added that if it were to be marketed, a barrel of shale oil would cost $22.

PRC PETROLEUM DELEGATION CONTINUES VISIT

PY061446 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 3 Mar 79 p 17 PY

[Excerpts] Sao Paulo--PRC Vice Minister of Petroleum Industry Zhang Wenbin said yesterday that his country could participate in the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, a possibility which had not been considered before because China was a small-scale producer. He also said that China "does not see tension in the international oil market since many countries still have large reserves of the raw material."

Zhang Wenbin yesterday visited Persico Pizzamiglio in Guarulhos, and Confab Industrial in Pindamonhagaba, manufacturers of steel tubes. During the visit to the Brazilian Aeronautics Company in Sao Jose dos Campos, Zhang Wenbin said that the organization which oversees petroleum affairs in China might buy a Xingu plane, a model for executives, and also a Bandeirantes model equipped for geological analyses, a model used by Brazil in the Radam project.

While the Chinese mission visited factories in Sao Paulo, three of its members remained in Rio de Janeiro studying the risk contracts already signed by Brazilian Petroleum Corporations to determine if some of the clauses can be included in the contracts China will sign with foreign companies which want to undertake exploration in its territory.

CHINESE TEXTILE DELEGATION ARRIVES IN SAO PAULO

PY061442 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 3 Mar 79 p 17 PY

[Text] Brasilia--A fourth Chinese delegation to Brazil arrived yesterday in Sao Paulo to look into the possibilities of commercial transactions in the textile field. It is scheduled to meet on Tuesday with the director of Itamaraty's Commercial Promotion Department, Ambassador Paulo de Tarso Flecha de Lima, and other government representatives linked to the agriculture, industry and commerce fields.

O ESTADO VIEWS STATE OF RELATIONS WITH U.S.

PY060027 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 3 Mar 79 p 3 PY

[From the "Notes and Information" page: "Areas of Convergence With the United States"]

[Text] The winter has been neither long nor gloomy--as the poetic figure would have it--for the last 2 years of our official relations with the Carter administration. It was rough enough, however, to inspire Ambassador Robert Marion Sayre to use the old weather metaphor handed down by Aeschylus in greeting the outgoing head of Brazilian diplomacy at the dinner given for him with the attendance of representatives of the 10 most important countries in the world. "Despite the harsh winter which flailed both of us, it is time for congratulations, reflection and even, perhaps, for celebration," the ambassador said in a metaphoric reference to the blizzards which fell on Washington and the rains which poured on Brasilia.

Including Brazil among the countries which are world leaders, Ambassador Sayre unintentionally put his finger on one of the causes--not the only one--for the ebbing relations between Brasilia and Washington, which receded from the high tide marked by the "memorandum of understanding" signed between Kissinger and Silveira to the low tide marked by the renunciation of the U.S. military aid agreement. [paragraph continues]

In fact, Brazil's position among the world's large economies has changed for the better to a considerable degree since 1964--and by necessity that change imposed on our diplomacy a completely new strategy for action, calling for the sacrifice of that notion of "special relationship" which was Itamaraty's main postulate for a long time. The new strategy did not necessarily mean that the United States had to be ignored due to an "ecumenical pragmatism" while our diplomats exchanged niceties with the OPEC "democracies" in exchange for the oil princes' silence over our disregard for human rights. Likewise, the new strategy had neither room for the State Department's outdated paternalism nor does it call for a differential evaluation of Brazil's case in the light of the Helsinki agreement.

The words of Ambassador Sayre bore us out once more. Not only has Brazil's internal situation moved in a positive direction with the natural effects of our actions on the international stage, but the United States also moved in the same direction, abandoning its rigid ways of analyzing friends and allies and their behavior toward them. The two countries moved to the point where it became possible for what experts call "social listening." There are controversial points pending in our bilateral relations of course--something which is natural and wholesome. They are the points which call for reflection--amid the congratulations and celebrations--on the part of our peoples and governments, a reflection which the maturity achieved by both countries through crises will turn productive.

On the one hand, we have already reached a degree of relative development which does not let us assume inflexible, demanding attitudes more characteristic of the underdeveloped "Third World." On the other hand, we must understand that the role of international cooperation which Brazil is to play as an intermediary between developed and developing nations forces us to maintain positions which must be invulnerable from the standpoint of political ethics. Maintaining these positions will make us effective as an intermediary between the Western world and other areas, particularly with Latin America because we must not forget our membership in the Inter-American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty. Of course, this does not mean that our national interests should not be defended--fighting, for instance, U.S. protectionist tendencies or negotiating more just conditions within the GATT. This intermediary role above all calls for subjecting diplomacy to morality and national interests to what we should call respectability, just to be consistent.

Now that Brazilian-U.S. quarrels are over, as attested by Ambassador Sayre in front of the representatives of the world's principal powers, it is hoped that the government of Gen Joao Baptista Figueiredo will have the ability to expand the areas of convergence with the great democracy to the north, strengthening the bonds which are not only of affection but also of cultural, economic, strategic and technological cooperation.

ABREU, SIX OTHER GENERALS PLACED IN RETIREMENT

PY060033 Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 2150 GMT 5 Mar 79 PY

[Text] Brasilia--President Geisel has signed a decree through which the following generals will go into retirement: Maj Gen Hugo Abreau; Brig Gen Aecio da Silva Ferreira; Brig Gen Mario Rocha; Brig Gen Aridio Brasil; Brig Gen Helio Ibiapima Lima; Brig Gen (Adolfo Murgel); and Brig Gen Jose Pinheiro Machado de Assis Brasil.

Through another decree, President Geisel has appointed Maj Gen Geraldo Inacio de Souza as deputy chief of the army's personnel department. This post was formerly held by Gen Hugo Abreu.

LETAILS GIVEN IN PAPAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR BEAGLE MEDIATION

PY070132 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 6 Mar 79 FY

[Text] Chilean President Augusto Pinochet has instructed the foreign minister to fulfill as soon as possible what has been requested by Pope John Paul II regarding the mediation on the Chilean-Argentine dispute.

The pope asked the Chilean Government to submit both the background material on the several negotiations and the pertinent drafts and agreements. He also added that the sending of Chilean and Argentine delegations to Rome would be decided at a later date along with the procedures to be followed during the joint meetings to be held under his mediation.

This information is included in the following official communique issued this afternoon by the presidential office:

1. His Holiness Pope John Paul II, through a letter dated 20 February 1979, has communicated to his excellency the president of the republic his purpose as a meditor to guide the Chilean and Argentine governments in the negotiations and to assist them in searching for a solution to the controversy.

2. His holiness notes the noble task carried out by his special envoy, Msgr Antonio Samore, and expresses happiness for the results achieved in this mission aimed at achieving, through the aid of the Holy See, the resumption of dialog between the two countries regarding the southern border dispute. He is also very happy to see that the document signed in Montevideo, at the request of Cardinal Samore, is yielding its first positive results between the two countries.

3. His holiness states that the Holy See is waiting for both governments to submit both the terms of the controversy and the background and criteria which they believe are pertinent, particularly those discussions during the many negotiations whose acts, notes and drafts will be put at the disposal of the Holy See. Moreover, it adds that the sending of Argentine and Chilean delegations to Rome will be decided at a later date along with the norms of procedure for the joint meetings which will be held under his mediation.

4. His holiness ends his letter by giving a special apostolic blessing to the Chilean people, to his excellency the president of the republic and to those who assist him in government activities.

5. His excellency the president has given clear and specific instructions to the foreign minister to fulfill as soon as possible what has been requested by His Holiness John Paul II.

PHONE TAPPING ALLEGED IN EXTRADITION CASE

PY070222 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 6 Mar 79 FY

[Text] The National Information Center, CNI, has ordered an internal investigation to determine whether any subordinate personnel were involved in the tapping of a telephone conversation between Santiago and Washington. To report on this investigation and to report that the CNI has no connections with lawyer Sergio Miranda, the following communique has been issued:

A source close to the legal defense of one of the persons whose extradition has been requested by the United States has stated or has been attributed by the press to have issued certain statements.

These statements deal with an alleged telephone conversation which supposedly was recorded by CNI subordinate personnel. These statements attempt to link members of the CNI with that defense party in the extradition process which is now before Supreme Court President Israel Borquez.

In view of this, the board of the CNI must report to the people the following:

1. The CNI categorically states that it has never had any direct or indirect involvement with the legal defense already mentioned.

2. Despite this and despite having any knowledge of what has been reported by this source, the CNI has ordered an exhaustive investigation to establish any possible culpability.

PINOCHET OUTLINES DECENTRALIZED EDUCATION POLICY

PY060135 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 5 Mar 79 PY

[Text] In a speech he delivered this morning to open the 1979 school year, President Augusto Pinochet announced the enforcement of national directives to correct the present maladies of the educational system. In his speech, the president made a detailed analysis of the educational situation and noted that educational problems seem to get worse instead of being solved.

Pinochet announced that within a prudent period of time universities will be turned over to the most able academic members. He thus announced the end of government appointed rectors. He also announced the creation of provincial education services aimed at decentralizing the operation of schools and educational academies. These will be managed by the local community.

Furthermore, stressing the importance which the national directives give to teachers, the president announced a new study on teacher's salaries. This study will be completed by the end of 1979.

President Pinochet was the only speaker at the ceremony which was held at 1100 in room No 2 of the Diego Portales building. Also present at the ceremony were Mrs Pinochet, government ministers, university rectors, school principals, representatives of the professors association, university student representatives and authorities from the educational sector.

MAYORS RESIGN TO GIVE PINOCHET FREE HAND FOR MAKING CHANGES

PY071242 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 7 Mar 79 PY

[Text] All mayors of the country have submitted their resignations to President Pinochet, leaving him a free hand to make the changes he may consider necessary. According to information released by the Interior Ministry, the matter has been studied by the 5th meeting of regional intendants, which is taking place at the Diego Portales building and which will conclude this afternoon. President Pinochet will preside over a work meeting this afternoon with Interior Minister Sergio Fernandez and all regional intendants. According to unofficial information, there are approximately 385 mayors in the country.

LEFTIST LEADER ARRESTED FOR LINKS WITH M-19

PA011400 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 1 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Bogota--The Military Institutes Brigade last night reported the arrest of a leftist leader of Cazanare and his wife on charges of participating in the eradicated M-19 organization. Authorized forces indicated that National Opposition Union leader Omar Duenas Perez and his wife, Argentina Mirma de Duenas, were arrested when it was proved that they had specific links to the subversive M-19.

M-19 MAKES APPEARANCE AT ANTIOQUIA UNIVERSITY

PA051847 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 5 Mar 79 PA

[Text] The M-19 movement made a surprise appearance in Medellin yesterday when three alleged members of that subversive group entered the Antioquia University Medical School, where a regional health workers meeting was being held. Spokesmen for the Antioquia University Medical Association reported today that during the course of the deliberations three heavily armed men broke into the auditorium. One of the men was hooded, and the faces of the other two were covered by big hats and dark glasses. One of the alleged M-19 members harangued those present, urging them to awaken to the people's health problems. He praised the guerrilla movement and said the movement will continue clandestine operations to support the demands of the working class. Before fleeing the three men threatened those present so they would not follow them.

M-19 MEMBER SEEKS ASYLUM AT FRENCH EMBASSY

PA060430 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 6 Mar 79 PA

[Text] A complex diplomatic problem was created today over the asylum sought at the French Embassy by Colombian citizen Marco Antonio Belandia. Foreign Minister Diego Uribe Vargas told Super news that Colombia does not have a diplomatic asylum treaty with France and that, therefore, the granting of a safe-conduct to leave the country presents difficulties. It has been said that Marco Antonio Belandia is one of the main leaders of the M-19, as well as the person who fired on murdered union leader Jose Raquel Mercado. There are serious accusations against Belandia in the trial concerning the murder of Jose Raquel Mercado, and he had been intensively sought last week. It was also said that Belandia had sought diplomatic asylum at the French Embassy last Thursday.

MAOIST GUERRILLA GROUP EMERGES IN EL CAQUETA

PA021206 Paris AFP in Spanish 0157 GMT 2 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Bogota, 1 Mar (AFP)--A Maoist group of Popular Liberation Army [EPL] guerrillas is reportedly operating in El Caqueta Intendency in southern Colombia, according to a clandestine bulletin sent to the local press today. This is the second guerrilla group that has begun operating in this jungle area approximately 600 km from Bogota, an area that had been considered the fief of the pro-Soviet Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC]. The Ernesto Che Guevara Front, as the new insurgent movement calls itself, took credit for the deaths of three persons in El Caqueta, including a policeman, and the occupation of several villages, from which they obtained arms, food and money.

AMBASSADOR REPORTS U.S. STUDY ON MEXICO'S OIL

PA061531 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0957 GMT 6 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 6 Mar (EFE)--The U.S. Government has ordered a "secret" and "probing" study on Mexico's oil potential, Mexican Ambassador in Washington Hugo Margain has said here. The diplomat noted that the study takes into consideration the change that has taken place on the international scene as Mexico has gone from "relative weakness to a strong position" at a vital time for North America.

The document, Margain added, "studies the bilateral relationship and the world situation to view the position of Mexico and the United States in the world context."

Margain voiced his satisfaction at the appropriate way in which President Jose Lopez-Portillo handled his talks with U.S. President James Carter, during which "it was noticeable that Mexico's position had changed from one of apparent weakness to one of influential force in international relations."

The official said that Mexico has experienced all kinds of pressure throughout its history, not only from the United States but also from Europe and other powers. However, it has come out ahead in each case, Margain stated.

The diplomat also said that the study on Mexico "has not been disclosed because it is a private, secret or classified document." All that is known about it is that it is called "MER-41."

FOREIGN SECRETARY: COUNTRY SEEKS ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY

PA061620 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0344 GMT 6 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 5 Mar (EFE)--Foreign Secretary Santiago Roel said today that Mexico does not feel any pressure from abroad regarding its natural resources. He added that Mexico seeks economic self-sufficiency.

Some countries have ambitions, he stressed, "but we do not feel the pressure because of the ability with which President Jose Lopez-Portillo has handled foreign policy, guaranteeing the strength of this country."

Roel added that "there is a lot of violence and complications" in the world so "we need to be aware of what we ha and should protect."

"We are already psychologically and morally self-sufficient. What we seek is economic self-sufficiency. We have to maintain our foremost values," he stressed.

The foreign secretary said that the "maintenance of principles in foreign affairs and adaptation to the modern world is the path that has to be followed."

Roel indicated that "there can be ambitions, but we are very united and President Lopez-Portillo has given us a great example regarding international affairs."

TORRIJOS MEETS WITH BUSINESS EXECUTIVES IN JAPAN

PA030432 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 2 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Gen Omar Torrijos Herrera, former Panamanian chief of government and political leader of the Democratic Revolutionary Party, recently said in Japan that after 10 years of trying to reach a negotiated solution to the canal problem, his country is now engaged in making the contacts necessary for its economic development, taking into consideration that ours is a country which has many areas for development.

Speaking at a meeting attended by executives of the 10 most prominent enterprises of Japan, General Torrijos said that our country represents the most functional route for world navigation. Torrijos said that now that he has taken a back seat in the government in order to give full attention to the promotion of the country's economy, he considered that Japan could be a logical partner for Panama concerning the big investments we have planned for the future. Torrijos said that Panama has an excellent climate for investment and a serious political organization which is stable and respectable, conditions which a country as serious as Japan demands from a partner to begin working.

I am very happy to be here in Japan with you, Torrijos said to the Japanese executives, and this trip is due to a desire to work together and to advice which the president of an industrialized country once gave me. At the time we were at the most crucial moments of the canal negotiations, he told me: Torrijos, take a trip around the world so that the people can see that you are not a white Idi Amin, because that is the way the press has painted you.

As a matter of fact, Torrijos concluded, this also gives me the opportunity to assure you with all certainty that when the canal comes under our administration, it is going to be managed as well or more efficiently, because we realize the responsibility to the world to have free world commerce at modest prices and without discrimination against any flag.

NATIONAL PORT AUTHORITY TO CONTROL BALBOA, CRISTOBAL

PA061936 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 5 Mar 79 pp 1, 6-A PA

[Text] Canal Authority Director General Gabriel Lewis Galindo has told LA REPUBLICA that the Canal Authority will grant the National Port Authority concessions for the administration of the Ports of Balboa and Cristobal. He added that the Canal Authority and the National Port Authority have been holding a number of meetings to formalize the concessions.

He also said that each government entity that has something to do with the installations that will be returned to Panama in accordance with the Torrijos-Carter treaties will be assuming the functions which pertain to it in that national territory.

Referring to Balboa and Cristobal, Lewis Galindo explained that studies are being carried out to determine the budget for the maintenance of the port installations. The studies will be ready before 1 October. Although Galindo did not mention a figure, it is believed that several million balboas are involved.

He indicated that in accordance with the law, the Canal Authority will supervise all property transferred to Panama on 1 October. Therefore, it is the government's central body for entering the Canal Zone in an orderly manner.

He noted that at this time there is complete harmony with the other government institutions, and that all work is being undertaken in coordination with those institutions.

OFFICIAL WARNS OF POSSIBLE FUEL PRICE INCREASES

PA022116 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 2 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Adding to the statements made yesterday by Edwin Fabrega, general director of the Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification, Commerce and Industries Minister Juan Jose Amado III warned this morning that Panama may soon begin to feel the effects of the reduction in the world's oil output. This situation will not affect Panama's economy at this moment, but we do not know if we will have to increase fuel prices within 1 or 2 weeks, Amado said this morning during a news conference.

In view of the reduction in the world supply of crude oil caused by the situation that has prevailed in Iran since November 1978, Panama may not only find itself forced to pay more for each barrel, but it may also be affected by the scarcity of crude oil on the world market.

Amado noted that Panama buys all of its oil from Ecuador and Venezuela. For instance, Ecuador has been selling oil to the refinery at $12.97 per barrel, but in view of the scarcity and the increase in demand, it has sold oil to other countries at $16.40 a barrel and received offers to buy oil at $18.40 per barrel. This means that Ecuador may curtail supplies to Panama in order to sell oil to others at a higher price.

Amado also disclosed that a work team composed of government officials, private experts and representatives of the Panama refinery are now working on additional plans to reduce fuel consumption by the citizens. He said that the plans include a rearrangement of school, trade and industry schedules and a campaign to induce private citizens to resort to car pools as in other countries. He said that there may be a scarcity in the near future, but that no thought has yet been given to adopting such a drastic measure as rationing. This is already being done in other countries and is under consideration by the United States. He added that the possible rearrangement of work schedules would be aimed at avoiding traffic jams on streets and roads in urban areas during certain hours of the day.

In view of the seriousness of the situation, the government and private citizens will have to use electricity, gas and other oil byproducts more wisely, the minister said.

AGRICULTURE MINISTER DEFINES STAND ON BANANA WORKERS

PA070425 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 6 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Agricultural Development Minister Alfredo Orange explained the government's decision on the problem of the Pacific Banana Corporation [COBAPA] in the following terms:

[Begin recording] [Question] Mr Agriculture Minister, what is the government attitude toward COBAPA.

[Answer] Our stand is very clear. We are trying to preserve a good relationship with the workers. [passage indistinct] We uphold the decision to keep the present COBAPA manager and reinstate personnel dismissed last week.

[Question] If all this has been achieved today, what is the purpose of tomorrow's meeting at 1400 in Santiago.

[Answer] To try to harmonize groups which do not agree in order to reconcile them and maintain production. [end recording]

PRD OFFICIAL REQUESTS STUDY ON ZONE FACILITIES

PA061749 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 6 Mar 79 pp 1, 30 PA

[Text of letter by Democratic Revolutionary Party Secretary General Nicolas Gonzalez-Revilla to President Aristides Royo dated 5 March 1979]

[Text] Mr President: As secretary general of the Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD], I address you in order to voice the great concern of many of our party members, especially professionals and workers, over the process of returning areas and facilities within the so-called Canal Zone to our country according to the Torrijos-Carter treaties.

As you know, Mr President, during a brief preliminary inspection it was noted that many of those facilities are in bad shape, cause for the said concern, especially if we take into consideration the sacrifices involved in recovering every inch of that part of the national territory, which has a profound historical meaning for all Panamanians. Therefore, Mr President, we allow ourselves to recommend that you appoint the Panamanian Association of Engineers and Architects [Sociedad Panamena de Igenieros y Arquitectos--SPIA] so that, along with the Panama Canal Authority, it can prepare an objective and detailed report on the condition of each of the aforementioned areas and facilities before the Panamanian State formally takes possession of them.

As General Torrijos has said on several occasions, the struggle for liberation entails generational alpinism [alpinismo generacional]. Our party, conscious of and concerned about this responsibility, feels that it is vitally important that future generations have an exact report on the state in which every part of that territory was given back. Since you were one of the key negotiators of the canal treaties, Mr President, we are certain that you will give this request the highest priority, with the same fighting spirit with which you participated in the negotiations.

"In October with the General, all to the canal."

Your comrade and friend, Nicolas Gonzalez-Revilla, secretary general, PRD

GROUP DEMANDS REJECTION OF PRD REGISTRATION

PA061331 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 5 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Today, 10 Panamanian lawyers submitted an appeal to the Electoral Tribunal for annulment of the Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD] registration request. The lawyers who signed the appeal submitted it to the Electoral Tribunal authorities this afternoon. According to the appeal, the PRD's registration request violates Articles 6, 122 and 125 of the constitution. Regarding Article 6, the lawyers alledge that the specifications of the PRD banner are identical to the nation's flag, which is disrespectful to the country's flag. Regarding Articles 122 and 125, the lawyers say that because of obvious and public acts, government officials are evidently engaged in the PRD's political activities, and for this reason they cannot guarantee the freedom and honesty of the voting as established in the constitution, and much less assure that each party or candidate will receive the same amount of funds according to the law.

They also say that it violates Articles 16, 19 and 38 of the law on political parties, and Decree 195 of 1978 issued by the Electoral Tribunal.

The appeal for annulment was submitted by Carlos Ivan Zuniga; Ivan Robles; Guillermo Endara; Jose Manuel Faundes Sr; Jose Manuel Fraundes Jr; Fabian Echevers and other lawyers.

PROVINCIAL ORGANIZATIONS REJECT GOVERNMENT MINING PROJECT

PA031720 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 2 Mar 79 p 13 PA

[Open letter to the government from organizations in Chiriqui Province dated 1 March 1979]

[Text] Members of the National Guard General Staff, president of the republic, ministers of state, members of the National Economic Commission:

In view of the imminent possibility that exploitation of the CERRO COLORADO MINE will begin without prior consultation with the Panamanian people or directly with the Province of Chiriqui, we wish to inform you that WE ARE FIRMLY OPPOSED TO THAT ENTERPRISE AND WE REQUEST THE SUSPENSION of that project for the following reasons:

1. The inevitable human and environmental changes--clouds contaminated with lethal elements; deterioration of agriculture and livestock; deterioration of vegetation and wildlife; contamination of waters and fish--which would be of direct detriment to the inhabitants and territories of Chiriqui, Bocas del Toro and Veraguas [provinces] as well as to vital agricultural and livestock production, endangering the entire republic's food supply.

2. Our country's enormous public debt which at present is about to surpass tolerable levels of indebtedness.

3. The fact that the monumental investment of over $1.6 billion in a single project, whose economic results are extremely risky, will undoubtedly constitute a financial burden for present and future generations of Panamanians.

4. The great foreign dependence inherent in all aspects of the Cerro Colorado project, which will place us in the hands of the nations and companies which have technology, financing and markets.

5. The costly experiences which we have sustained with regard to state projects requiring huge investments that are devouring large subsidies from our national treasury, particularly at this time of great economic crisis.

Gentlemen: We urge you to direct your efforts toward identifying other socioeconomic activities in which an investment of $1.6 billion will really generate a comparable increase in the country's productive and employment capacities without entailing the great economic risks and the profound human and environmental distortions inherent in the Cerro Colorado project.

Gentlemen: The exploitation of Cerro Colorado, because of its ecological, social and economic consequences, constitutes a flagrant VIOLATION OF OUR HUMAN RIGHTS.

Association for Ecological Preservation
Association for Sport Fishing
Association for the Preservation of Fauna
Biological Research Society of the University of Panama
Society of Friends of the Tree
Los Quetzales Hunters' Club
Agro-Forestry Cooperative of Chiriqui
Association of Chiriqui Rice Producers
Chiriqui Cattle Cooperative
CRICEPA [expansion not given]
National Association of Chiriqui Cattlemen
Agricultural and Industrial Cooperative
Farm Marketing Cooperative
David Lion's Club

HEAD OF PANAMANIAN BRIGADE RESUMES FIGHTING IN NICARAGUA

PA021653 Panama City Radio Hogar in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Mar 79 PA

[From "Radioperiodico Conciencia" program with Milciades A. Ortiz]

[Text] According to reports I have received from the Victoriano Lorenzo Brigade of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, Dr Hugo Spadafora, former health vice minister, is already in Nicaragua. He is fighting again after recovering from a wound he suffered on one of his hands while firing a mortar.

I have also received requests for the services of persons with military experience wishing to fight against dictator Somoza's forces in Nicaragua. Anyone with military experience who wishes to apply can call Radio Hogar for the necesssary contacts.

LA REPUBLICA CRITICIZES U.S. LEGISLATORS' TACTICS

PA021648 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 1 Mar 79 p 4A PA

[Editorial: "They Shall Gain Nothing"]

[Text] Again the country is invaded by U.S. legislators who return with the same domineering attitude, who again express the imperialist intent to defend, protect and even increase the interests of the empire to the north which signed with Panama the treaties that will enter into effect on 1 October.

This time they are members of the U.S. Congress, some of whom were never able to disguise their opposition to the Panamanian liberation cause or to the decision by President Carter, the U.S. Senate and the majority of the U.S. people to put an end to a situation intolerable not only to Panama but also to Latin America and the entire world.

These legislators have been holding what they call "hearings" on territory illegally occupied by their country's armed forces. In fact they were nothing but the second chapter of racist trials in which the attendants jumped on Panama and its people with charges, insinuations and even threats merely for purposes well known to Panamanians. It is another attempt to frighten us, to dissuade us into meekly accepting all the impositions the Potomac legislators may conceive in their power-crazed minds.

They certainly will not achieve their purposes. We Panamanians will uphold our national unity and dignity as a nation.

For three-fourths of a century we have struggled, as we continue to struggle, against the injustices imposed on us, against racist doctrine brought to Panamanian territory and against all sorts of aggression.

We approved the Torrijos-Carter treaties in good faith, although they failed to represent all our aspirations since, in order to progress in our fight for sovereignty, we had to endure additional sacrifices.

These treaties were endorsed by many Latin American rulers, by the secretaries general of the United Nations and the OAS, and by all nations and peoples of the world. On 1 October Panama and its people will demand respect for their rights without fear of threats and without accepting additional impositions from the northern legislators in their evil maneuvers.

BRIEFS

SUGARCANE HARVEST--Authorized spokesmen of La Victoria sugar mill have reported that 850,553 tons of sugarcane have been processed so far this year into 1,371,536 quintals of sugar and 5,615,513 gallons of molasses. [Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 5 Mar 79 PA]

COSTA RICA

VENEZUELA, COLOMBIA TO ACCEPT NICARAGUAN DESERTERS

PA062342 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2213 GMT 6 Mar 79 PA

[Text] San Jose, 6 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--Costa Rican Public Security Minister Juan Jose Echeverria announced today that five Nicaraguan soldiers who took asylum in Costa Rica 3 weeks ago will be sent either to Venezuela or Colombia where they will be able to work freely. The soldiers, all members of the Basic Infantry Training School, crossed the border, surrendered themselves to the Costa Rican Civil Guard and asked for political asylum.

Echeverria said that for the time being the presence of these soldiers does not represent a problem for the Costa Rican Government, but if the number should increase in the future they could not be given the attention they are given now. At this time four of the soldiers are performing miscellaneous duties at the National Security Office, the country's intelligence police. The fifth was hospitalized recently for unspecified reasons and is now also doing various types of work at a garrison in San Jose.

The five refugees have expressed fear of working in jobs outside the garrison or military office because they believe it possible that attempts could be made on their lives by Nicaraguan opposition groups or by their former army comrades. It would be difficult for the Public Security Ministry to offer protection to a larger number of such refugees, and it was therefore decided to negotiate with the Colombian and Venezuelan governments to accept them.

FOREIGN MINISTER DEPARTS FOR ECUADOR ON OFFICIAL VISIT

PA061514 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0000 GMT 6 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Foreign Minister Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier left today for a 3-day official visit to Ecuador. The Ecuadorean Government invited the Costa Rican foreign minister in order to review several matters of common interest. During the visit a technical and cultural cooperation agreement will be negotiated.

BRIEFS

COTTON PROGRAM LOSS--Jose Joaquin Acuna, director of cotton development, has reported that during the 1978-79 season the cotton program suffered a 40-million colone loss. He said that this was because of improvisation and haste by previous administrations to implement this program in the country. He added that the National Agricultural Council analyzed the program and decided to start its basic activities again. [San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0000 GMT 6 Mar 79 PA]

EL SALVADOR

POLICE AVERT TERRORIST EXPLOSIONS IN SAN SALVADOR

PA061953 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1536 GMT 6 Mar 79 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 6 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--Policemen today defused three bombs which had been placed at the entrance of the Fausto Theater in northern San Salvador. The bombs were found by employees shortly before 0900 (1400 GMT), when the daily bustle of activities begins. Thus far no leftist organization operating in El Salvador has claimed responsibility for this terrorist act.

At dawn today the outlawed leftist Farabundo Marti Popular Liberation Forces (FPL) detonated a bomb at the Ahuachapan courthouse, 100 km west of San Salvador, damaging the building.

NICARAGUA

'CLANDESTINE' ATTACKERS DESTROY COTTON EXPORT COMPANY

PA070319 Managua Estacion X in Spanish 0030 GMT 7 Mar 79 PA

[Excerpts] [Passage indistinct] dynamite used to blow up the electronic controls of the plant. The dead man was identified as Alcides Rojas and the injured as Jose Manuel Alvarado.

Unidentified persons, believed to be members of clandestine organizations, set fire to the export company after 12 midnight. It is presumed that those who took part in the action were able to move freely through the establishment.

Guards surprised the individuals in the act, and in the ensuing fray one guard was killed and another injured. Over 50 firemen from Leon and Chinandega tried to keep the damage from the fire to a minimum with great effort, but most of the bales of cotton were consumed by the flames. At approximately 0200 firemen from Leon were called to the scene, while the firemen from Chinandega arrived at 0250.

The export company in question, (La Postultega), is the most modern, has the greatest processing capacity and is the most expensive in the country's western region. It was inaugurated last year. The economic blow to the export company and cottongrowers is a harsh one since some say that the company is not covered by any insurance policy. (Gustillo) Lacayo, the Mantica family and Dr Guillermo Arias Cabrera are stockholders of (Postultega, S.A.). Martin Perez Aguilar was serving as manager.

When our newsmen arrived in the scene, heavily burdened National Guardsmen were coming out of the plant and smoke was causing people's eyes to smart. The producers were assessing the remains of the stock. They estimated that over 4,000 bales of cotton had been destroyed and the main physical plant had been rendered useless, totaling 15 million cordobas in losses. Cotton stored in 32 warehouses was destroyed by the flames. Unidentified persons blew up the electronic controls of the company, destroying them, and debris was spread over 80 meters. The explosion opened a hole 5 meters in diameter through the zinc roof and machinery.

According to workers at the company, some 40 heavily armed men appeared unexpectedly at midnight and surrounded the plant. They set fire to the establishment, and when the guards resisted they killed one and injured another. After an exchange of gunfire the other guards fled. As of this morning some had still not returned to the plant.

The persons who attacked the plant were allegedly unmasked. Reports are conflicting since some persons say that the assailants carried Sandinist banners, while some say otherwise. After setting the fire, detonating the dynamite, killing one guard and injuring another in an operation which lasted over 10 minutes, they fled from the site in a blue station wagon and another vehicle owned the the company. The two vehicles were found abandoned in a ravine a short distance from the plant.

SANDINISTS REPORTEDLY CAUSE 14 DEATHS IN 2 WEEKS

PA070337 Managua Estacion X in Spanish 0030 GMT 7 Mar 79 PA

[Excerpt] A total of 14 dead, including members of the army and civilians, as well as several robberies, fires and ambushes is the toll taken by terrorists and armed criminals of the Sandino-communist front over the past 2 weeks.

Among the unsuccessful attempts was an attack on the bodyguards of Luis Pallais Debayle, vice president of the Chamber of Deputies, by elements linked to the criminal guerrillas who are financed and supported by two international political parties--the communists and the social democrats.

HALT IN SANDINIST HARASSMENT OF NATIONAL GUARD NOTED

PA052207 Bluefields Radio Atlantico in Spanish 1800 GMT 5 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Sandinist harassment of the Nicaraguan National Guard has ceased in the last few days. It is not known if this is a deliberate silencing of their mortars and machineguns or whether Commander Cero's Sandinist forces have received orders to make a tactical retreat.

FSLN LEADERS COMMENT ON EFFORTS TOWARD FINAL OFFENSIVE

PA051423 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Mar 79 PA

[Statements by Humberto Ortega Saavedra, member of the National Directorate of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, and Oscar Perez Cazar, coordinator of the Political-Military Committee of the Sandinist Domestic Front--recorded somewhere in Nicaragua; date not given]

[Text] [Perez] From the political point of view, after the imperialists tried to implement the interventionist mediation formula, the Sandinist Front was considered by the people to be the only organization truly responding to the people's needs. The Sandinist Front said it was not going to enter into pacts and deals with those who had blood on their hands and who, after staining their hands with the blood of the people, wanted to foil the masses' attainment of power by means of a formula for an alleged plebiscite that was intended to establish Somozism without Somoza.

Therefore, from a political viewpoint the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN], which fully supports the National Patriotic Front and the United Peoples Movement, has established a political hegemony that can permanently mobilize the people and at the proper time lead them in a general strike, creating difficulties for the regime and taking advantage of the situation militarily to inflict a harsh blow and destroy the dictatorship.

Therefore, from the framework of this situation we can say that the FSLN, from a political and military point of view, is in an advantageous position, a position it has never had in its history. We are fully confident of our victory.

On the other hand, considering that even though it is true that the enemy has become stronger technically--the dictator has taken funds from the health, education and public works budgets to strengthen the army--this technical strength has a great weakness: The fighting morale of a repressive force tends to gradually undermine the army itself. Although it is true that it has improved its technical level, the fighting morale of the soldiers has deteriorated.

Therefore, even though the dictator has strengthened the army, despite having better weapons, the ones who handle the weapons do not have the will to fight, to resist and confront the massive popular strength of the Sandinist Front. We are confident that the army, after receiving our blows and because of our use of the correct strategy and the just cause we defend, will break sooner or later. Therefore, the forces of the dictatorship are today weaker than ever and our victory is closer than ever.

[Presumably Ortega] In conclusion, we want to say that we believe the fundamental thing is the FSLN's development with popular support for our struggle. The FSLN is becoming the leader of the mass movements, and it is important to emphasize that it is the people who are heading the war fronts.

We would like to stress that in the Northern Carlos Fonseca Amador Front we have Comrade German Pomares Ordonez, one of the FSLN's founding members. He is responsible for the northern front together with Comrade Francisco Rivera, known as Ruben.

Besides Comrade Oscar Perez, who is here with us, we have on the domestic front comrades such as Joaquin Cuadra and a comrade known by the people as Commander Claudio.

On the southern front we have comrades such as Oscar Benavides, who works to strengthen the guerrilla columns in the San Juan River area and other points included in the Southern Benjamin Zeledon Front.

These are comrades of popular origin, fully identified with the revolutionary cause and the cause of the poor, oppressed and humble exploited in our country.

Recently our organization has been speaking quite a lot about an imminent call for insurrection. We would like to point out that what we have been constantly calling for is the strengthening of the daily struggle militarily, politically and in the agitation of the people--of the (?Sandinist) people and the people in general--against the dictatorship. Naturally, this is for the purpose of preparing a general interregional offensive. For us, insurrection began as a strategic process in October 1977 in that our organization has been mobilizing the people and getting close to them. In this way insurrection has been developing. In this way our armed forces have been developing. In this way we have been creating conditions for a crisis of the system in general and of Somozism in particular. There is a deep economic, social and political crisis which is gradually creating conditions for the final and total insurrection to occur in due time. We cannot give exact dates, days or hours, but we are working to establish the conditions that will permit general insurrection and place the people in a position to obtain their freedom.

RADIO SANDINO SAYS U.S. IMPERIALISM IS MAIN ENEMY

PA051617 (Clandestine) Radio Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 2330 GMT 4 Mar 79 PA

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] With the blood of Augusto Cesar Sandino, his assassins sealed the pact which enslaves our people. Since then, the Nicaraguan people have been under imperialist domination. In this way the Nicaraguans killed each other, brother against brother, instead of having the gringos die in the struggle to subjugate our fatherland. Yankee imperialism found in the Somozas a faithful lackey to control our country. The Somozist dictatorship undertook a socioeconomic development based on false foundations with serious internal contradictions which [word indistinct] are being expressed.

This is what we are currently seeing--a state of domination which oppresses the working people, disregards human rights, represses agricultural development and limits the development of industry and commerce. The well-being of Nicaraguans is disregarded. The people's blood is shed. Violence affects all homes. Our economy is gradually weakened. There is no political and social stability. Despite all of this, the situation continues. The contradictions of the system are evident and (?insuperable).

Who benefits from such a situation? Definitely not Nicaragua; neither the poor nor the wealthy. Truly no one benefits. Then who benefits? Who is responsible for the terror and violence? Who oppresses and kills our people? Who established the National Guard? Who chose Somoza as chief of the National Guard? Who buys our natural, mining, agricultural and livestock resources? Who benefits from the work of our people? Who lends us money and sells us consumer goods? Who has educated our (?aggressive) president? Who revived his wicked heart? Who indoctrinated the Chiguin [derogatory name given to Somoza's son]? Who acted so that the dictatorship would not fall? Who? The number one enemy of the Nicaraguan people, the number one enemy of mankind. Justice and history have unmasked it. As yesterday with Sandino, Yankee imperialism today tries to wash its hands of the people. The victims of the United States of America are rising up in our country and asking for revenge. They are asking for justice. The holy blood of Sandino has germinated. His children have taken up the rifle and we will break the chains. The future is ours.

Brother Nicaraguans, the future is beginning. Long live the heroic Nicaraguan people! Death to the tyrant and Yankee imperialism! Let us develop a popular organization. Let us organize insurrectional development. In this way we shall be victorious. Free fatherland or death!

PROGRESSIVE PARTIES ASKED TO JOIN SANDINIST PEOPLE'S MILITIA

PA051842 (Clandestine) Radio Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 0500 GMT 5 Mar 79 PA

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The overthrow of the Somozist dictatorship and the construction of a new Nicaragua will not be the work of a small group of persons. It will be the triumph of an entire people's struggle to achieve democracy.

We ask all democratic and progressive political and union organizations to join the Sandinists Front in forming the Sandinist people's militia. The Sandinist people's militia can be joined by honest members of the Conservative Party, members of democratic labor centrals, members of fundamentally progressive political paties, as well as all Nicaraguans interested in changing our fatherland's political and social situation.

It is time to understand that political sectarianism only tends to weaken and divide the organizations confronting tyranny, and the only one who benefits is Somoza. The Somozist dictatorship has closed to use every path for changing the current situation through means other than armed struggle. We are aware that while so-called civic activities are being carried out, we should simultaneously organize ourselves militarily to guarantee victory over the forces of Somozist reaction and the armed bands of the National Guard.

Nicaraguan brothers, the creation of an opportunity to overthrow the tyrant is in our hands. We cannot postpone the opportunity to build a new fatherland on democratic foundations which will respond to the demands of an entire people rather than to a small group of scoundrels.

Comrades of democratic and progressive parties, remember that along with us, the Sandinist Front, you have a great task to carry out. We ask you to objectively analyze Nicaraguan reality. You will see that there is no other path but to take up arms. Armed struggle is but another form of political struggle used when other forms are exhausted. Remember that so-called civic struggle is not enough. The various forms of struggle must be maintained to achieve the overthrow of tyranny. Audacity is necessary, and here we are not talking about adventurist actions. We are referring to actions which respond to objective plans and are not spontaneous.

The Sandinist people's militias are military organizations with specific functions such as harassment and self-defense operations, coordinating their actions with Sandinist National Liberation Front squads and columns. The unleashing of the insurrection must count on the participation of the entire people.

The cells of the progressive parties can become, along with patriotic and anti-Somozist individuals, squads of Sandinist people's militias acting in territorial regions to carry out political activities. You, comrades of progressive parties, have the capacity to achieve this. You should discuss in your organizations the best way to participate in forming Sandinist people's militia groups. We shall be jointly taking a step forward in the construction of a new fatherland.

It is everyone's struggle. The effective participation of all our people in the insurrectional struggle is decisive. September gave evidence of the Nicaraguan people's determination to confront the forces of oppression with weapons in their hands. Objective and subjective conditions exist in Nicaragua to promote the overthrow of tyranny. (?We need) all those who in one way or another struggle to transform our fatherland. Nicaragua belongs to everyone. Therefore, it is a [word indistinct] duty to remove it from its current chaos. We call on you to struggle together. Victory will be ours. Let us jointly organize Sandinist people's militias.

MPU BULLETIN SCORES IMPERIALISTS, BOURGEOISIE, FAO

PA061200 (Clandestine) Radio Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 2330 GMT 5 Mar 79 PA

[Bulletin No 2 of the United People's Movement--date not given; read by announcer]

[Text] This year, 1979, which has just begun with bitter fighting and which is of great historical importance, has completely proven that there are important matters which must be clearly defined:

1. That those who write history are the organized popular masses defending their interests. These are the masses who make a revolution.

2. That those who fight without hesitation to obtain the most complete independence in a really democratic state are the popular masses.

3. That the bourgeoisie do not want a true and complete democracy. They are treacherous and strive to [word indistinct] the revolution and make it fail.

4. That the small Nicaraguan democratic bourgeoisie, as the situation develops, tends to support the popular revolutionary forces.

5. That in order to establish an ample and thorough democracy in Nicaragua, it is essential to overthrow the Somozist military dictatorship and establish a regime which will fully represent the popular interests.

6. That in order to overthrow the dictatorship, the National Guard must be destroyed because it is the main supporter of the regime [words indistinct].

7. That true democracy can be created only by the armed rebellion of the Nicaraguan people as the result of a long struggle and the [words indistinct] and never the result of deals between imperialism, the dictatorship and the treacherous bourgeoisie.

Whoever does not understand this is blinded by vested interests. The people have seen with sorrow and have heard the words peace and order used as mere demagoguery by Somoza, the mediation commission and the servile bourgeoisie. They have seen how, instead of decreasing, brutal repression kills their most outstanding sons day by day.

Therefore, what reasons do they have to believe the words used by the dictatorship [words indistinct]? Are there reasons why they should believe these words? The people trust in the organizations which have grown from their bosom and whose actions have shown honesty and patriotism as well as a high level of awareness and organization because its ranks are comprised of workers, peasants and democratic sectors. These are the sectors which should wield power.

The United People's Movement [MPU], having the confidence of the popular sectors which it has organized, is preparing to establish with new efforts the basis for consolidating itself as a popular alternative. While the Broad Opposition Front [FAO] talks about deals and conciliations, the MPU is organizing the masses politically, educating and training them so that they can take power with their own hands.

While the FAO is [word indistinct] the MPU is becoming stronger and is increasing the possibility of creating a National Patriotic Front. The MPU must be at the head of the popular sectors and its organizations and must advance the consolidation of a popular bloc representing all the sectors of our people--the workers of the cities and countryside, men, women, teachers, students, professionals. It is the only force which can counteract the force of the pro-imperialist bourgeoisie and prevent the bourgeoisie from deceiving the people.

The National Patriotic Front will be a union of all organizations which, together with the MPU and Sandinist National Liberation Front, will struggle to overthrow the dictatorship and will oppose any imperialist maneuver or intervention.

This is the alternative of the united people against the servile and treacherous sectors of the organized bourgeoisie, the private sector and the FAO, which have falsely assumed representation of the nation when the fact is that they represent only their own interests.

Long live national unity, long live the MPU, long live the National Patriotic Front.

UN ENVOY DENOUNCES ISRAELI MISTREATMENT OF PALESTINIANS

FL062326 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 6 Mar 79 FL

[Text] United Nations--The committee for the exercise of the Palestinian people's inalienable rights today asked the Security Council to study the situation in the Arab territories that have been illegally occupied by Israel since 1967. In a letter to the Security Council president, the interim president of the committee for the exercise of the Palestinian people's rights, Cuban Ambassador Raul Roa Kouri, denounced the systematic and repressive measures carried out by the Zionist authorities against the Palestinian people. The letter states that Israel's policy is clearly directed at establishing a permanent organization over the territories which have been illegally occupied since 1967. He stated that earlier reports to this committee point out similar cases of mistreating and torturing Palestinian prisoners by the Israeli authorities. He added that this committee has continued hearing testimonies from Palestinians, which have been corroborated by Israeli lawyers, proving that they are being systematically subjected to torture and mistreatment by the Zionist authorities.

DELEGATION TO HELSINKI VIETNAM CONFERENCE ANNOUNCED

FL061119 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 6 Mar 79 FL

[Text] Rosario Fernandez, alternate member of the PCC Central Committee and member of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers National Secretariat, heads the Cuban delegation to the international emergency conference for support to Vietnam, which has been convoked by the World Peace Council [WPC]. Other members of the delegation are Arturo Espinosa, WPC member and Cuba's permanent delegate to that organization, and Lazaro Cabezas, Cuban charge d'affaires in Helsinki, Finland, where the conference will meet beginning today, 6 March, and end on 8 March.

VISIT BY SOVIET INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION DELEGATION

Arrival in Havana

FL060028 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 6 Mar 79 FL

[Text] I.V. Arkhipov, deputy chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Council of Ministers, today at noon arrived in Havana and was received by Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the Politburo and vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers. Arkhipov traveled to Cuba at the head of the delegation to the ninth session of the intergovernmental committee for economic, scientific and technical cooperation, which will meet between 6 and 8 March.

Camaguey Province Tour

FL052017 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1905 GMT 5 Mar 79 FL

[Text] A delegation headed by (Vladimir Bondarchuk), secretary of the Soviet-Cuban cooperation committee, has visited agricultural and industrial development zones in Camaguey Province. They were accompanied by Lazaro Vazquez, second secretary of the party provincial committee. The delegation toured the project site of the new sugar mill, Batalla de las Guasimas, in Vertientes Municipality. The delegation got an extensive briefing on sugarcane development in the areas of Monte Quemado, Manantiales and (Las Cimientas) in Vertientes Municipality, south of the capital of Camaguey Province. Others present were Rafael Francia Mestre, member of the PCC Central Committee, and Marcos Lage, minister of sugar industry. Afterward, the Soviet delegation viewed the industrial and social expansion projects in Camaguey Province.

Cooperation Committee Meeting

FL071127 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 7 Mar 79 FL

[Text] In Havana City, the ninth meeting of the Cuban-Soviet intergovermental committee for economic, scientific and technical cooperation began yesterday afternoon and is scheduled to end tomorrow, Thursday, with the signing of a protocol. The Cuban delegation attending the meeting is headed by Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, and the Soviet delegation by I.V. Arkhipov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers.

Present at the opening plenary session were Hector Rodriguez Llompart, minister president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation; Severo Aguirre, member of the Cuban Council of State and ambassador to the Soviet Union; and USSR Ambassador to Cuba Nikita Tolubeyev.

SOCIALIST COUNTRIES RAILROAD COOPERATION MEETING

FL051302 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 5 Mar 79 FL

[Text] The 22d meeting of the Seventh Commission of the Railroad Cooperation Organization will hold working sessions from 5 to 10 March; that is, beginning today, at the Havana Libre Hotel's main hall in this capital. The event will be attended by delegations from Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, the GDR, Romania, the Soviet Union, Poland and Cuba. The Railroad Cooperation Organization will conduct its business grouped into 11 specialized committees. The Seventh Commission will discuss all aspects related to railroad signals and communications.

CSSR COOPERATION IN HAVANA GARBAGE COLLECTION

FL051251 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 5 Mar 79 FL

[Text] The capitals of Cuba and Czechoslovakia are making joint efforts in Havana City's general plan, based on the development of socialist living conditions aimed at guaranteeing the city's cleaning mechanisms. The statement was made in Havana City by Zdenek Zuska, member of the Czechoslovak Communist Party and mayor of Prague, who added that in coming weeks Havana will receive from his country the first of dozens of garbage trucks and, later on, large quantities of garbage bins with capacities of 110 and 1,100 liters. He said that in this sense the cooperation includes the assistance of technicians for reparing transportation equipment and organizating garbage collection in the city.

AGRICULTURE MINISTRY HOLDS MEETING ON SOCIALIST LEGALITY

FL070202 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 7 Mar 79 FL

[Text] The first meeting of the year between the delegations or jurists from territorial and other dependencies of the Agriculture Ministry, and the Juridical Directorate of the central organization concluded today at the information and fair center of the Agriculture Ministry. The meeting dealt with exchange of experiences on the juridical work in applying the legal norms with regard to the agricultural-livestock sector. They also examined the agrarian and labor problems in general with regard to socialist legality relating to this organization. Speaking at the meeting were Dr Miguel (Rey Salia), who referred to the present state of state arbitrage; Dr Enrique Corona Zayas, member of the commission for implementing the direction and planning system for the economy; and Lic Narciso Cobo, member of the Central Planning Board--JUCEPLAN--Legal Advisory Office, who read the main report, on economic contracts.

CDR NATIONAL SEMINAR ON EVALUATING, ELECTING OFFICERS

FL070143 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 7 Mar 79 FL

[Text] The national seminar on methodological organization of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution--CDR--began meeting today at the Plaza Hotel. This important meeting by our largest mass organization is establishing the appropriate methodological norms to conduct the meetings for the evaluating, electing or reelecting CDR officers, a process which will shortly start in our country. Participating in the discussion and analysis of the material are the members of the municipal and provincial executive secretariats and the comrades responsible for CDR organizational work. The meeting, which will close on Thursday, 8 March, in the morning, is presided over by Jesus Fernandez Planchart and Jose A. [Gell] Noa, both members of the CDR National Executive Secretariat.

PINAR DEL RIO MEETING EXAMINES TOBACCO PRODUCTION

FL061414 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1302 GMT 6 Mar 79 FL

[Text] In order to find solutions aimed at increasing the production and quality of tobacco crops in Pinar del Rio Province, a meeting was held to examine the current harvest and what has to be done for future ones. The meeting, which was chaired by PCC Central Committee members Julio Camacho Aguilera, first party secretary in the province, and Vice Minister of Construction Mario Oliva, also sought to determine the responsibilities of the various factors related to that task.

Pinar del Rio Party Executive Bureau member Fidel Ramos reported on the accomplishments of the Vuelta Abajo region from 1975 to date in connection with tobacco crops, and referred to the decrease in production. He also referred to the first party congress resolution dealing with efforts to increase tobacco production and raise the levels of agricultural yields.

Provincial Party Bureau member Julio Espin announced the Agriculture Ministry's work plan aimed at raising the level of tobacco production and quality. The document points out the measures for eliminating the erosion and weakening of the soil, better organization of the work force, training of technical personnel, adequate exploitation of equipment and stepping up technical discipline in plantations devoted to the cultivation of cigar wrapper leaves.

In his speech at the meeting Julio Camacho Aguilera urged the participants to efficiently prepare the land before the start of the harvest. He stressed the importance of enriching the soil through the application of organic fertilizers.

SHORTAGES AFFECT CONSTRUCTION OF NEW SUGAR MILL

FL052211 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2115 GMT 5 Mar 79 FL

[Text] The construction plan for the new sugar mill, Batalla de las Guasimas, which is being built in Vertientes Municipality, Camaguey Province, is running at 43 percent at the end of the first 2-month period in 1979. Antonio Gonzalez, chief of programs and organization of this most important investment project in Camaguey Province, has stated that there has been a decrease in the construction rate during this period, for the most part caused by a lack of basic materials at the construction site. He stated that the main reason for these deficiencies is the problem of transporting the basic materials to the site, because many materials are ready at various Ministry of Sugar Industry workshops.

Gonzalez also stated that another of the unforseen [problems] that have affected the construction schedule of Batalla de las Guasimas was the excessive rain that fell in Vertientes Municipality during the last days of February.

HAVANA RADIO REPORTS CARTER TRIP TO MIDDLE EAST

FL061338 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1222 GMT 6 Mar 79 FL

[Text] North American President James Carter this week will travel to Egypt and Israel in an effort to achieve some results in his role as mediator for a separate peace treaty in the Middle East.

The Soviet daily KRASNYA ZVEZDA has denounced the fact that the United States proposes to use Israel, Egypt and Saudi Arabia in the creation of a politico-military alliance which will safeguard North American interests in the Middle East. Despite all the efforts to intimidate the Saudis with the communist threat and the promises of military assistance, the daily notes, Washington was not able to alleviate Saudi Arabia's uneasiness, because of the U.S. pro-Israel stance in that area's problems. In the face of that situation, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA affirms that the United States is even ready to use its gunboat diplomacy to reverse the wheel of history.

A PRELA news report announces that the Israeli Government, after prolonged and intense debates, has approved Washington's proposal to Prime Minister Menahem Begin on a separate peace treaty with Egypt. The report adds that Israel's Deputy Prime Minister Yiga'el Yadin has told newsmen that the proposal was approved by a majority and not unanimously.

It has been learned that Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir 'Arafat has denounced Israel for preparing another major military aggression against Lebanon. Subsequently, last-minute dispatches have reported artillery barrages against Lebanese towns by Israeli artillery.

COMMENTARY SCORES FAKE U.S. NEUTRAL STANCE ON PRC AGGRESSION

FL051454 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 5 Mar 79 FL

[Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces and Interior Ministry "Combatants Political Information" program commentary]

[Text] Certain imperialist governments have faked an apparent tension in the face of the current crisis created by the Chinese aggression against Vietnam. Even though the facts demonstrate the contrary, those heads of state have assumed a conservative stance in that respect and have even made statements advocating peaceful solutions to avoid the war. Such is the case of North American President James Carter, who stated that the United States would not intervene in the problem because its national interests are not at stake.

Carter attempted to demonstrate the alleged Yankee neutrality by proposing that China and Vietnam negotiate the situation and even mentioned the stratagem that Vietnam should withdraw its forces from Kampuchea so that China would do the same from Vietnamese territory. With his statements, the U.S. head of state tried to blackmail the Vietnamese Government by calling both aggressors and gaining a political victory for his Beijing associates. At the same time he attempted to demonstrate before world public opinion and, particularly, before North American public opinion that his government disassociates itself from the war unleashed by China precisely at a time when Deng Xiaoping has just concluded a visit to the United States.

Probably Washington is trying to gain political and diplomatic positions by taking advantage of the madness and unrestrained aggressiveness of its Beijing allies. Based on this, one of the arguments used by the U.S. head of state was terming the Chinese-Vietnamese conflict a war between communist countries and not a war unleashed by the Chinese pro-imperialists against the heroic Vietnamese people. But there is another aspect in this matter which reveals the fallacy of the capitalist superpowers. At the same time that Beijing carries out its mad and provoking aggression against Vietnam, the United States, England and other NATO countries are offering arms to the clique of mandarins.

North American political circles are planning the sale of sophisticated war material to China to contribute to the so-called modernization of the Chinese Army. Logically, the Yankee arms suppliers have found in Beijing a good market and are taking the offensive to profit from it. The same thing is taking place in London. The British Government is continuing its contacts with Mao's successors to sell them modern war materiel. As part of the negotiations, there is the sale of a lot of nearly 100 supersonic aircraft of the Harrier vertical take-off type, for which the Beijing traitors have expressed interest.

According to the Hua Guofeng-Deng Xiaoping clique's plan, those airplanes would be stationed near the borders with the USSR and other neighboring countries. It is obvious that those borders include the one with Vietnam, which today is shamelessly being violated by Chinese leaders, and the one with Laos, where they are currently concentrating troops and equipment for a premeditated aggression against that Southeast [Asian] country.

The FRG and France have remained silent with respect to the Chinese attack against the Vietnamese nation. Not a single word of condemnation has been said by their official circles. Thus it can be implied that they approve the aggression. Behind the FRG-French silence, one can find the negotiations--which started several months ago--to sell to Beijing tanks, antiaircraft weapons, armored vehicles and some lots of aircraft. It is no secret that behind the imperialist silence a plot is being hatched with the Chinese clique. Besides agreeing with the new ally on the arms race and reactionary and warmongering goals, it is also evident that NATO and its followers have now shown an appetite for China's war materiel market, backing its rearmament and conversion into a spearhead aginst the socialist and progressive countries in that part of the world.

SOVIET OFFICIALS COMMENT ON BILATERAL RELATIONS

FL051535 Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 25 Feb 79 p 7 FL

[Cecil Pilgrim report]

[Text] An official meeting held at the Moscow Friendship House on the occasion of the national holiday of Guyana, Republic Day, was attended by Cde Cecil S. Pilgrim, charge d'affairs adinterim of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana to the Soviet Union, and by representatives of the embassies of other Latin American countries.

The meeting was opened by Andrei Ignatyev, vice president of the Soviet association of friendship and cultural cooperation with the countries of Latin America, who warmly congratulated the Guyana people upon their national holiday on behalf of the active workers of the association who were present in the hall.

"It is becoming a good tradition for the Soviet public to mark Guyana's great holidays together with her people," he said. "Soviet people hold in deep esteem the Guyanese people, their courageous struggle for freedom and the genuine independence of the country. We in the Soviet Union show vivid interest in the culture, history and traditions of Guyana.

Our states maintain friendly relations which are based on mutual respect and confidence."

The speaker stressed a great role in the rapprochement between the two nations played by by the Guyana-Soviet Friendship Society, told those present about the activities of this organisation and expressed a high opinion of its work.

Anatoly Glinkin, D. Sc. (history), deputy director of the Latin America Institute of the USSR Academy of Sciences, was the next to take the floor. "The new name of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana appeared on the political map of the world nine years ago," he said. "The winning of independence by Guyana and the establishment of a republican order in that country was promoted by objective processes in the world, such as the collapse of the colonial system, the consolidation of the socialist community and the international revolutionary movement, the activisation of the popular struggle against imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism. On the other hand, the victory of the people of Guyana resulted from the stubborn struggle by many generations for national independence, social progress and the right to determine their fate independently."

In touching upon Soviet-Guyana relations, Anatoly Glinkin stated that the visit by Guyana's Prime Minister Forbes Burnham to the Soviet Union in April 1978 was an important event for the development of these relations. This visit and the talks by the Guyana delegation with Soviet leaders furthered contacts between our countries and created good prospects for the future. During the visit the sides reaffirmed their wish to develop and strengthen mutual cooperation and to impart to it a long-term and stable character.

In his reply Cde Pilgrim said: "May I first of all offer my sincere thanks to the Soviet association of friendship and cultural cooperation with the countries of Latin America and the House of Friendship with Peoples of Foreign Countries for organising this function in honour of our Republic Day. It is indicative of the warm and friendly relations which exist between our two peoples and governments that we are together today, celebrating Guyana's national day. It is my firm belief that this spirit of friendship and cooperation will gain added strength and inspiration during the years ahead, as we travel together the road of social, political and economic development within the framework of our systems.

My warm thanks, he continued, also to Professor Glinkin for his stimulating dissertation on our country and its people, and for the generous remarks about the efforts which we have made to transform our society and to make a contribution of some value to matters of international concern. Professor Glinkin is a friend of Guyana and we thank him once again."

Then Cde Pilgrim pointed out that "it was to the Soviet Union and the great October Revolution that countries looked for inspiration. The ideals of the October Revolution still form Soviet policy today, and Guyana acknowledges the contribution which the Soviet Union has made to the historical process of change."

"Relations between the Soviet Union and Guyana," he concluded, "are warm and fraternal, and the groundwork has been set for the further development of these relations. The visit of our comrade leader and prime minister to the Soviet Union last year was an historic moment in these relations. The warm and friendly spirit with which he was received by the Soviet leaders and people was ample evidence of the spirit of friendship and cooperation which exists between our two peoples and governments. We wish for the Soviet Government and people continued success in the noble task undertaken under the banner of socialism."

FISHERIES AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH GDR

FL021605 Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 21 Feb 79 p 16 FL

[Excerpt] The Government of Guyana and the German Democratic Republic signed an agreement on Monday on a programme of work for exploratory commericial fishing in the Guyana fishery zone.

Signing the agreement on behalf of the Guyana Goverrment was Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Economic Development Cde Hetram Maraj and for the GDR Mr Peter Koester.

The discussion leading up to the signing of the agreement was the continuation of the third session of the GDR/Guyana joint commission in Georgetown during October last year.

A statement from the Ministry of Economic Development said the work programme envisages an investigation of the pelagic (surface) and demersal (deep-water) fin-fish resources off the Guyana shelf, as well as conducting fishing and echo-grammetic surveys of the resources with a view to determining their distribution over the fishing grounds.